Tea trade affected by discurbances in Darjeeling

1570. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the estimated loss in tea trade due to disturbed conditions in Darjeeling during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : There has been a marginal fall of about 1.39 M. KGs. in production of tea in Darjeeling during last year, which is generally attributed to adverse weather conditions.

Pollution in the Indian ocean and Arabian sea due to oil discharged by Ships

1571. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the oil discharged by ships in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea is the main source of pollution which is adversely affecting the flora and fauna and threatening ecology of the coastal areas of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of the oil discharged in large quantity every year, there has been decline in fish population and also toxic residues in the marine food pose serious health hazards to the people consuming such food; and

(c) if so, what steps Govoernment have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c) Oil slicks formed due to the discharge of oil and oily wastes by ships in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea do not exceed the prescribed limits of concentration. Therefore, oil discharged from the ships does not constitute the main source of pollution.

The available scientific information does not establish any direct relationship between the oil discharged from the ships and decline in marine food.

Comprehensive legislation to regulate the discharge of oil and oily wastes from ships in the territorial waters has been provided in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (as amended). Under this Act such discharges are prohibited and violations are punishable with severe penalties.

Rehabilitation of migrants from Punjab

1572. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the establishment of an Authority to recognise the bonafides of migrants from Punjab in the Capital;

(b) if so, by when such an Authority is likely to be set up; and

(c) what funds have been allocated for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) A retired Additional District and Session Judge has already been appointed to scrutinise the bonafides of those migrants from Punjab, whose cases are not found genuine after the initial verification.

(c) An amount of Rs. 66 lakhs has already been spent on Punjab migrants by Delhi Administration.

Penalty imposed by CCI&E

1573. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Rs. 12 crores as penalty has been imposed on various firms by the Controller of Imports and Exports for violation of provisions of the Import and Export Control Act;